AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Previously canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A common rail injector for injecting fuel in a common rail injection system of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing (1), which communicates with a central high-pressure reservoir and in which a nozzle needle is axially displaceable in order to adjust the injection as a function of the pressure in a control chamber, and [[a]] an annular sealing ~~element~~ ring (6), which is disposed in an annular chamber (3) that is provided between a valve element (2) and the injector housing (1), and in addition to the sealing ~~element~~ ring (6), a continuous annular support ~~device~~ disc (7) is disposed in the annular chamber (3) between the valve element (2) and the injector housing (1) and engaging the valve element around its inner circumference.

9. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim 8, wherein the ~~support device is formed by an~~ annular support disk (7)~~, in particular comprising~~ comprises a metal material.

10. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 9, wherein the support disk (7) is embodied as slightly conical on its inner circumference.

11. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 10, wherein the slightly conically embodied inner circumference of the support disk (7) narrows toward the sealing element (6) or away from the sealing element (6).

12. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim [[9]] 8, wherein the support disk (7) is embodied slightly conically on its inner and outer circumference.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim [[9]] 23, ~~wherein leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are embodied in~~ the support device is formed by an annular support device (7), in particular comprising a metal material.

15. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim [[10]] 23, wherein the support device (7) comprises an annular disc which is slightly conical on its inner circumference, and wherein leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are embodied in the support ~~device~~ disc (7).

16. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim [[11]] 23, wherein leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are embodied in the support device (7), and wherein the slightly conically embodied inner circumference of the support disk (7) narrows toward the sealing element (6) or away from the sealing element (6).

17. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim [[12]] 23, wherein leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are embodied in the support device (7), and wherein the support disk (7) is embodied slightly conically on its inner and outer circumference.

18. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim ~~13~~ 23, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

19. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 14, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

20. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 15, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

21. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 16, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

22. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 17, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

23. (New) A common rail injector for injecting fuel in a common rail injection system of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing (1), which communicates with a central high-pressure reservoir and in which a nozzle needle is axially displaceable in order to adjust the injection as a function of the pressure in a control chamber, and a sealing element (6), which is disposed in an annular

chamber (3) that is provided between a valve element (2) and the injector housing (1), a support device (7) disposed in the annular chamber (3) between the valve element (2) and the injector housing (1), and leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) embodied in the support device.